

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**  
**STATESBORO DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

TONY WILLIAMS

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Case No. CR606-026

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Defendant seeks leave to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP") in pursuing his appeal of the Court's decision to deny his 28 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) sentence reduction motion. (Doc. 1288.) Despite his apparent poverty, however, "[a]n appeal may not be taken in forma pauperis if the trial court certifies in writing that it is not taken in good faith." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). A defendant's good faith is demonstrated when he seeks appellate review of any issue that is not frivolous. *United States v. Alvarez*, 506 F. Supp. 2d 1285, 1290 (S.D. Fla. 2007), *citing Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438 (1962). Hence, an application to appeal in forma pauperis may be denied "if it appears -- objectively -- that the appeal cannot succeed as a matter of law." *Id.*, *citing DeSantis v. United Technologies Corp.*, 15 F. Supp. 2d 1285, 1289 (M.D. Fla. 1998), *aff'd*, 193

F.3d 522 (11th Cir. 1999). Further, a case is frivolous for IFP purposes if it appears there is "little or no chance of success." *Id.*, citing *Carroll v. Gross*, 984 F.2d 392, 393 (11th Cir. 1993).

Here, the district judge, exercising his discretion, declined to reduce Williams' sentence under the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, Pub. L. 111-220 and related United States Sentencing Guidelines provisions. (Doc. 1281.) Williams has not offered any facts or argument suggesting that the judge's decision amounted to an abuse of discretion. Hence, the Court certifies that Williams' appeal is not taken in good faith under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. His motion to proceed IFP on appeal should be **DENIED**.

**SO REPORTED AND RECOMMENDED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA